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show that abortion among savages has a close association with savage infanticides, and it has a similar reason for being.

Zur Geschichte der Verbreitung und Methode der Fruchtabtreibung. PLOSS. Leipzig, 1883.

Abortion as well as infanticide is widely practiced among savages, the two being mutually supplementary. In New Zealand infanticide is more frequent. The Papuans think two children are enough and regularly destroy by abortion all the succeeding. In the Sandwich Islands one-fourth of the women are childless. A few of the Pacific Island groups are free from this practice. Both abortion and infanticide were frequent with the American aborigines. In Brazil one tribe of Indians regularly destroy the fœtus in women under thirty years of age. To have a family is a sign of old age and the women wish to be thought young. Among the Winnebagoes an average of one child per woman was found and two children among the Chippewas. Half-breed children are regularly aborted, their large heads being fatal to the mother. Among African tribes there is great variation. Abortion is less frequent than infanticide in India. Chinese medical works describe methods of securing abortion. Mohammedans do not believe there is any life in the fœtus before five months. In Persia abortion is contrary to religion. The methods of securing abortion are various; in the United States quacks advertise their trade in the public newspapers.

Facultative Sterilität. (With supplement). HASSE, (Pseudonym). Leipzig, 1883.

This pamphlet describes an instrument for producing abortion and the general conditions that justify abortions are discussed. It is to be feared that the methods are applied in cases that do not justify any such radical treatment. In general it may be stated as certain that the risks to the health and life of the mother are vastly greater in case of abortion than in natural birth. In the United States an admirable study of criminal practice has been made by Eli Van de Warker.

Affaiblissement de la natalité en France. NADAILLAC. Paris, 1886, pp, 150.

From a statistical study the author shows that there has been a steady decline in the ratio of births to population during the past century amounting to over 25 per cent. in France. A similar study of other countries shows that France heads the list in the amount of this decline. In 1884 the ratio of marriages to 1000 of population was 66 for France and only 60 for Paris, where the ratio of illegitimate to legitimate births was as 17 to 46. This decline can be due to the action of no Malthusian principle, because wealth has increased; but the standard of comfort has been raised. The author of *Sexual Religion* thinks his principles have made great progress in France and felicitates its people. Nadailac sees in this enfeeblement of the birth rate a menace to the welfare of the country.

In the *Popular Science Monthly*, December, 1889, Grant Allen argues that the state of matrimony must for all time be the normal and necessary one for all women to enter and that our education for girls should be directed towards preparing girls to be good mothers. At present there needs to be four children born for every woman, to keep the race just stationary in numbers. Consequently every woman who chooses a celibate life is responsible for increasing the burdens of her married sisters. The fewer the children the better they will be reared and the more leisure for general culture there remains to the mother, all of which is much to be desired. We may modify this view to the extent of substituting two for four children per woman, because the excessive

infant mortality of to-day is largely, if not entirely, due to present ignorance of various laws of life. As many women naturally have large families it follows that there is plenty of room for women with intellectual pursuits, but the home must remain the keystone of society.

In closing we desire to draw attention to the vastness of the field of sex as a subject of investigation and the undoubted importance of the results of investigations in this line, not only in their bearing upon scientific and philosophical questions, but more especially as such results affect the general happiness and progress of the race. All other reforms really wait for sexual reform to lay the foundations. This reform has begun to take active shape in the world's work in such organizations as the White Cross League; and the old forces of prudery are beginning to weaken. There must however be more open and free delivery of facts before investigators in the field can make much progress. The laws of Natural Selection will vindicate the right by the constant destruction of lines of degeneracy as well as conditions of stagnant conservatism. One fact comes out clearly and that is that biology is the beginning of psychology, sociology and kindred sciences.

Appendix: While no attempt has been made to include all important papers bearing on these subjects, but rather to give a brief hearing to a few or sometimes a single work in each line, it was my intention to note Galton's work in heredity more carefully than was done in the first section. This author appears to me to have been led into a fallacy in considering that as we have two parents, four grand-parents, eight great grand-parents, etc., it follows that our distant ancestors are each represented by an infinitesimal factor in us. Our thesis is that the whole of each of all our ancestors is present in each of us, but that which is truly individual, i. e. our contribution to the continuous training of the generations of gemmules from Adam down, is infinitesimal. Consequently each of our parents passed over to us Adam's body (hereditarily) plus the increments successive generations had added to this ancestral stock. Almost the whole of the body of the father is therefore identical with as large a part of the mother's body, and the two coalesce as one in the child to form the oldest and best fixed of its characters. The child starts with this species-stock, plus all the increments that have been added on the father's and on the mother's side since their gemmules, which were once associated in a single remote ancestor, parted company, at first by cell division in the ovaries, etc., and later were still further separated by the development of these cells into distinct individuals. Such is an outline of the method of organic evolution, which may be completed by the addition of a few simple specifications, such as, that the characters in ontogeny are unfolded in the order of phylogenetic differentiation and that while thus unfolding, any portion of the history may be cenogenetically revised.

The following *errata* occur in the first section: p. 98, line 14 from bottom, "became" should be "become;" p. 102, line 11, "this" should be "the above;" p. 106, line 10 from bottom, "(cytic)" should be "(cyclic)"; p. 108, line 8, "evolution is its" should be "evolutionists." The author of "*La vie psychique*," etc., is BINET. Lines 11, 9 and 8 from bottom, "experienced" should be "exercised;" "*nasulum*" should be "*nasutum*," "trichocytes" should be "trichocysts," "prendopodia"—"pseudopodia."

JULIUS NELSON.

Ein geschlechtlich erzeugter Organismus ohne mütterliche Eigenschaften.
Dr. BOVERI. Gesellschaft für Morph. und Physiol. zu München.
July 16, 1889.

Boveri brings forward a crucial experiment into the much disputed fields relating to the functions of nucleus and cell protoplasm and the parts